

Rural Fire Department Guide

There is a wide range of information available regarding all aspects of fire department operation. This FAQ provides general rural fire information, funding sources, training programs, statistical information and publications on fire issues that include:

Emergency Medical Services
Emergency Preparedness and First Responders
Facility funding, operation and management
Fire Safety and Prevention
Hazardous Materials
Wildland Fires

Resources for Rural Fire Departments

- **Developing Effective Standard Operating Procedures for Fire & EMS Departments pdf file**
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/pubs_redirect.shtm?id=321&type=316
- **Dry Fire Hydrants Helping Counter Rural Wildfires**
<http://agnews.tamu.edu/stories/TFSV/dryfire.htm>
- **Fire Management Tools *Online***
<http://www.frames.gov/tools/>
- **Hazardous Materials Response Technology Assessment pdf file**
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/pubs_redirect.shtm?id=332&type=316
- **National Fire Protection Association Home Page**
<http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/home/index.asp>
- **National Volunteer Fire Council**
<http://www.nvfc.org/>
 - **State Associations**
<http://www.nvfc.org/state.html>
- **Personnel Accountability System Technology Assessment pdf file**
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/pubs_redirect.shtm?id=325&type=316
- **Rural Fire Prevention Checklist**
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/public/ruralcheck.shtm>
- **The Rural Fire Problem in the United States pdf file**
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/ruralpro.pdf>
- **Water Supply Standard Operating Procedures**
<http://www.mvfd.com/water/manual.htm>

Federal Funding and Program Assistance

There are different forms of funding programs available to rural fire departments including grants, loans, donations, and reimbursements. Consult grant writing resources (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ruralres/grant>) for assistance in preparing successful proposals.

Guides to Federal Programs

- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:** <http://www.cfda.gov/>
 - **Emergency Preparedness, Civil Relief**
http://www.cfda.gov/public/browse_sub.asp?subcode=FK&st=1
 - **Fire Protection**
http://www.cfda.gov/public/browse_sub.asp?subcode=CU&st=1
- **Federal Assistance Programs**
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/g_assist.shtm
 - **Guide to Federal Resources for Emergency Services Departments**
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/fedguide.shtm>
 - **Funding Alternatives for Fire and Emergency Services, pdf**
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-141.pdf>
- **Federal Government Funding Fact Sheet** - NVFC list of major programs
<http://www.nvfc.org/federalfunding.html>

Federal Funding Assistance Guide to Federal Programs

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Forest Service
 - **National Fire Plan** (<http://www.fireplan.gov/index.cfm>) A joint program with the Department of Interior (see below) and the National Association of State Foresters for wildland fire issues.
 - **Community Assistance Programs**
(http://www.fireplan.gov/community_assist.cfm) - These programs focus on building state and community capacity to develop and implement citizen-driven solutions that will lessen local vulnerability to risks associated with wildland fires.

- **Federal Excess Personal Property Program**
(<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/>)- Federal personal property that was originally purchased for use by a Federal agency and acquired by the USDA Forest Service for loan to one of the 50 States or 6 Territories for use in the State's rural or wildland fire protection program.
- **Volunteer Fire Assistance Program**
(<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa/>) This program provides Federal financial, technical, and other assistance to State foresters to train, and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities of 10,000 or less population. The funding must be matched on a 50-50% basis by non-federal dollars or in-kind.
 - **State Managers for Federal Excess Personal Property and Volunteer Fire Assistance Programs**
(http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/fepp/fepp_vfa_mgrs.html)
- Rural Development, Rural Housing Service
 - **Community Facilities Grant Program**
(<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm>) This program offers loans and grants to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services to rural residents for projects that will enhance public safety such as fire stations, fire trucks, and rescue vehicles.
 - **State Rural Development Offices**
(http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html)

U.S. Department of Energy

- **Fire Protection Program** (<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/fire/>) This program includes published fire safety directives (Orders, standards, and guidance documents), a range of oversight activities, an annual fire protection program summary, and a directory of fire safety professionals. DOE also sponsors fire safety conferences, various training initiatives, and a spectrum of technical assistance activities.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- **Office of Emergency Preparedness, The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)** (<http://oep.dhhs.gov/NDMS/ndms.html>) NDMS is a cooperative asset-sharing program among Federal government agencies, state and local governments, and the private businesses and civilian volunteers to ensure resources are available to provide medical services following a disaster that overwhelms the local health care resources.
 - Regional Offices (<http://oep.dhhs.gov/Contacts/contacts.html>)

U.S. Department of Interior

- **National Fire Plan** (<http://www.fireplan.gov/index.cfm>) A joint program with the USDA, Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters for wildland fire issues.
 - **Rural Fire Assistance Program** (<http://www.fireplan.gov/step1.cfm>) - Funding will enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural fire departments through training, equipment purchase and prevention work on a cost-shared basis.
 - **Rural Fire Assistance Contacts**
(http://www.fireplan.gov/doi_contacts.cfm)
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs** (<http://www.doi.gov/>) The Indian Community Fire Protection Program provides funds to perform fire protection services to Indian Tribal Governments that do not receive fire protection support from State or local government. Call (202) 208-3463
 - **Structural Fire Protection Program (SFPP)**
(<http://www.cfda.gov/public/viewprog.asp?progid=424>) SFPP provides funds for the installation of fire protection and prevention equipment in schools, dormitories, and other BIA facilities. Call (505) 346-6522.

U.S. Department of Justice

- **Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support Program**
(<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/>) This provides funding to the States to equip fire and emergency medical services, law enforcement agencies, and hazardous materials units to respond to a Weapons of Mass Destruction terrorist incident.

U.S. Department of Transportation

- **Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP)**
(<http://hazmat.dot.gov/hmep.htm>) The HMEP grant program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance as well as national direction and guidance to enhance State, Territorial, Tribal, and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- **Local Governments Reimbursement Program**
(<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/er/lgr/>) This program provides Federal funds to local governments for costs related to temporary emergency measures conducted in response to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances.

U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) Call USFA Grants Office toll free 866-274-0960

- **USFA Grants** (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/grants.shtm>) The purpose of the program is to award one-year grants directly to fire departments of a State to enhance their abilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards.
- **Reimbursement for Costs Associated with Fighting Fire on Federal Property** (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/fedfire.shtm>) - Firefighting costs over and above normal operating costs are reimbursable to fire departments for fighting fire on property owned by the Federal government.

U.S. General Service Administration

- **Federal Surplus Property Program** (<http://apps.fss.gsa.gov/property/pmDonate.cfm>) - GSA transfers Federal surplus personal property to State agencies for surplus property. They in turn can distribute this surplus property to public agencies (such as local-level governmental agencies) which could include fire departments.
 - **State Agencies for Surplus Property** (<http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/contact.jsp?query=contact&topic=state%20agencies%20for%20surplus%20property>)

U.S. Housing and Urban Development

- **Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG Program)** (<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>) ICDBG offers block grants to Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages to improve their communities including building or improving fire stations.
 - **Office of Native American Programs (ONAP)** (<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/onap/>) These offices distribute ICDBG funds
- **State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program** (<http://www.hud.gov/progdesc/cdbg-st.cfm>) CDBG funds provide eligible communities with annual direct grants that they can use for community projects, including fire and life safety protection.
 - **State CDBG Contacts** (<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/contacts/index.cfm>)

Training

Staff training is an important part of all fire department programs. There are many sources of information and training available to the rural fire department, including libraries, networks, courses, and more. Below are links to get started in or enhance a training program.

Financial Assistance

- **Guide to Federal Resources for Emergency Services Departments -- Training Programs** (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/fedtrng.shtm>)
- **National Fire Academy Assistance** (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/index.shtm>)
program covers reimbursement for the cost of transportation and a limited stipend for selected regional delivery courses throughout the nation.
- **First Responder Counter-Terrorism Training Assistance**
(<http://www.cfda.gov/static/83547.htm>) This is provided through each of the 50 States through individual State fire training systems. The training is targeted for first responders, those who will come into contact with and be forced to manage the consequences of terrorist acts.

Training Organizations

- **Fire Department Training Network** (<http://www.firescue.com/>)

Information Resources

- **Critical Infrastructure Protection Information Center**
(<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/cipc.shtm>) The primary activity of the CIPIC is to disseminate information to bolster the infrastructure protection efforts of emergency first responders throughout the nation. This includes preparing CIP instructional materials for use in education and training settings.
- **USFA Learning Resource Center (LRC)** (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/lrc.shtm>) The LRC provides current information and resources on fire and emergency management subjects and supports student and faculty research and supplements classroom lectures and course materials.

Statistics and Data Resources

- **Fire Resources at NIST** (<http://fire.nist.gov/>)
- **National Fire Data Center** (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/nfdc.shtm>)

Additional Resources

- **RIC's Emergency Medical Services Issues Page**
<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ruralres/ems.htm>
- **Congressional Fire Services Institute**
<http://www.cfsi.org/>
- **The Fire and EMS Information Network**
<http://www.fire-ems.net/>
- **Fire Industry Resources & Links**
<http://www.dragonflynet.com/links.htm>

- **Fire Safety Resources U.S. Department of Labor**
<http://www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/firesafety/index.html>
- **FireFighting.Com**
<http://www.firefighting.com/>
- **Firehouse.Com**
<http://www.firehouse.com/>
- **Firewise**
<http://www.firewise.org/>
 - **Firewise Communities**
<http://www.firewise.org/communities/>

Publications

- **Consumer Product Safety Commission**
http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/fire_sfy.html
- **Developing a Cooperative Approach to Wildlife Protection**
<http://www.firewise.org/pubs/developing/>
- **Fire and Safety Directory**
<http://www.firesafe.com/>
- **Fire-Fighting Operations Manual (Army Field Manual)**
<http://www.adtdl.army.mil/cgi-bin/atdl.dll/fm/5-415/5-415.htm>
- **Emergency Medical Services - Advanced Rescue Technology**
<http://www.emsmagazine.com/>
- **National Fire & Rescue Magazine**
<http://www.nfrmag.com/>
- **Rural Communities and Emergency Preparedness**
<ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/RuralPreparedness.pdf>
- **USDA Forest Service Fire Publications**
<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/>
- **USFA Publications**
<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/>